Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

279. Whether there have not been defalcations and misappropriations in the several departments in the State, especially during the last four or five years, and whether the Government have not discovered that the root cause for these can be traced to the too inadequate salary paid by the Government ?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

There have been instances; but Government doubt whether inadequate salary can be an inducement to them any more than a fat salary can be a guarantee against them.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

280. Do the Government know that the Madras Government, after very elaborate enquiries revised their scale of salary, in regard to the low-paid servants since the last four or five years?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

It appears they have.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

281. Do not the Government recognise that the economic and other conditions in the Cochin State are practically the same as in the Malabar District of the Madras Presidency?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

May be.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

282. Do not the Government think that this unnatural situation in our State is one that calls for immediate steps being taken, and the position of both the Government and the now low-paid staff placed on an enduring basis?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

Not that the Government are unsympathetic. It is a question of funds.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

283. Will the Government follow the standard of salary fixed in the Madras Presidency, and if not, why not?

Mr. P. DAMODARA MENON.

Government cannot say one way or the other without examining what that standard will cost here.

Officers and chances for promotion.

Mr. M. KRISHNA MENON.

284. Are the Government aware that under the existing system a large number of officers get no chance for promotion,

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